

CASCADE COUNTY DUI TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

August 25, 2015

Call to Order

DUI Task Force president Barbara Bessette called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. at the Great Falls Pre-Release Center, noting that a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Roll Call

DUI Task Force Members

Cascade County Attorney designee: Ashley Wilkinson – **Present**

Cascade County Sheriff designee: Deputy Travis Grove – **Present**

City of Great Falls Chief of Police designee: Captain Jeff Newton – **Excused Absence**

Great Falls City Attorney designee: Cassidy Blomgren – **Excused Absence**

State of Montana Highway Patrol District II Chief designee: Trooper David Baggs – **Absent**

Great Falls Victim-Witness Services designee: Savannah Hilton – **Excused Absence**

State of MT Adult Probation & Parole Regional Admin designee: Wayne Bye – **Excused Absence**

Montana Tavern Association Home Safe Program designee: Vince Kyle – **Present**

Gateway Recovery Center designee: Barbara Bessette - **Present**

Benefis Health Systems, Inc. Chemical Dependency Unit designee: J.T. Lute – **Present**

Great Falls Pre-Release Services, Inc. designee: Lisa Meyers – **Present**

Cascade County Commissioner: Jim Larson - **Present**

Great Falls Public Schools designee: Danielle Funseth – **Present**

Airmen Against Drunk Driving designee: Staff Sergeant Mark Brandly – **Present**

Citizen Members: Jim Whitaker - **Present**; Corin Fisch - **Present**; Mark Hewitt - **Present**

Task Force Coordinator: Jerry Kelley - **Present**

Members of the Public in Attendance

Nathan Steward, Intern with Misfits, LLC

John Hayes, Cascade County Tavern Association

2. Approval of Minutes from July 28, 2015

DUI Task Force members reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. **Jim Larson motioned to approve the minutes from the July 28, 2015 meeting as presented. Lisa Meyers seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

3. Public Information Committee

Radio PSA's: Barbara Bessette commented that people are still hearing DUI Task Force PSA's on the Central Montana Radio Network even though the contract has expired. Ms. Bessette has a meeting with STAR Radio to get the Task Force PSA's up and running.

DD Buddy Update: Barbara Bessette read the latest update from Alex Crosby, president of DD Buddy indicating their first round of testing has been a success. Mr. Crosby traveled to Washington DC to promote the app nationally.

Holiday Village Mall School Days Event: Mark Hewitt and Barbara Bessette reported that very few people stopped at the Cascade County DUI Task Force booth. The other booths did not receive much attention either. The promotional items were not attracting people. Task Force members discussed the

matter and suggested having an activity to draw people in or providing snacks. The fatal vision impairment goggles were also suggested, but it was decided there could be a liability issue.

Member Bios: Lisa Meyers asked that members e-mail their biographies to her so she can begin adding them to the website. Jerry Kelley will be taking individual photos.

4. Financial/Budget Performance Report and Requests for Payment/Purchases

DUI Task Force members reviewed and discussed the financial statements. \$300.00 was paid out to the winner of the logo contest, \$61.00 for the *Tribune* ad, and \$191.00 to reimburse Vince Kyle for towing the crashed vehicle to and from the state fair.

AADD Stickers: SSGT Mark Brandly updated the Task Force regarding the oil change sticker suggestion from the July 28, 2015, meeting. Airmen Against Drunk Driving designed a sticker with their name and phone number along with the DUI Task Force name. These could be placed in car windows along with the oil change sticker. AADD members have verbal commitments from several oil change businesses in Great Falls to utilize the stickers for active duty military personnel. For 5,000 stickers the cost is between \$300.00 and \$400.00. SSGT Brandly e-mailed a request to the Cascade County DUI Task Force asking for funding to pay for the cost of the stickers. AADD does not have funding for this purpose other than the possibility of the booster club on base. The DUI Task Force discussed the matter and asked that SSGT Brandly solicit funding from the booster club first and report back at the September meeting. If the booster club declines, Barbara Bessette asked that AADD submit a proposal and sticker design to the DUI Task Force.

Donation Request to the CCDUI TF: Jerry Kelley advised that he received an e-mail from a woman asking if she could donate money to the Cascade County DUI Task Force. Mr. Kelley found that she is the grandmother of one of this year's scholarship winners. She is also a good friend of Dave Wilson who recently passed away, and the donation would be from his estate. Her only request was that the Task Force sends an acknowledgment to Dave Wilson's family. Jerry Kelley will report back to the Task Force when he receives the donation.

5. Report from the Task Force Coordinator

Impaired Driving Leadership Summit: Jerry Kelley attended this summit in Helena July 5th and 6th. Among those in attendance were Attorney General, Tim Fox, and his deputy; District Court Judge, Mary Jane Knisely of Billings; Montana Highway Patrol Chief, Colonel Tom Butler; Helena's mayor; Montana Department of Transportation engineers; and representatives from the Montana Department of Corrections, the state crime lab, and various county commissioners. The purpose of the summit was to develop a state impaired driving leadership team. The three areas of focus are: 1) off road departures, 2) impaired driving, and 3) personal restraint. The team's structure consists of three levels: 1) executive leadership, 2) advisory committee, and 3) emphasis area team, which is where DUI task forces would serve. Washington and New Mexico have implemented an impaired driving program that has proved to be highly effective. The main barrier will be state funding.

Liquor Law Classes: Lisa Scates who is a trainer for the Liquor Control division was also in attendance at the summit. Jerry Kelley provided task force members with a flyer regarding the free liquor law class she facilitates. Mr. Kelley suggested having the training during one of the Task Force's regular meetings. Ms. Scates will cover any or all of the topics listed on the flyer. Jerry Kelley asked Task Force members which subjects they would like to be trained in. Common Liquor Violations was one suggestion. Mr. Kelley asked members to e-mail him with their suggestions.

6. DUI Statistics and MIP-A Statistics

Deputy Grove reviewed and discussed the stats with Task Force members. There were 27 DUI arrests for July versus 34 last year. The average BAC decreased to .138 compared to .160 a year ago. There were 21 minor in possession citations in July. John Hayes advised that he has not received the bill from the cab company with the June stats for the Home Safe program. Commissioner Larson reported that the fair was pretty quiet. JT Lute responded that Benefis received a huge number of referrals but he did not know if they were from the fair.

7. MAFB Save Stats from Airmen Against Drunk Driving

SSGT Mark Brandly reported that Malmstrom had 12 saves and 0 DUI's in July. They've had a 65% increase in saves compared to last year at this time. The base has been focusing on the 101 days of summer, which wraps up Labor Day weekend. Historically, most accidents and DUI's occur during this time frame. Airmen Against Drunk Driving is starting a campaign in September where their booster club will be giving away an I-pod. Their group is gearing up to provide drivers for the upcoming fight nights and the Air Force Ball. AADD wrote a news story for Malmstrom's website. SSGT Brandly will bring a printout to the next meeting.

8. Kudo Cards

No Kudo cards were awarded this month.

9. Round Robin

Vince Kyle commented that when he picked up the MHP crashed car he looked at it closely and noticed how amazing it is. The engine is still in it but pushed back into the driver's seat. During the transport people came up to look at it whenever he stopped, and people saluted as he drove by.

Danielle Funseth stated that she started back to work yesterday and school starts tomorrow. She thanked the DUI Task Force for approving the requests for the fatal vision impairment goggles and the passive alcohol sensors, noting that the SRO's and new principals will be pleased.

Jerry Kelley advised that he has given Kelly's Signs the new logo. They sent him a couple of designs which he forwarded to Lisa Meyers and Barbara Bessette. The Cascade County DUI Task Force website address and "What's your plan?" will be included on the banner. Jerry Kelley ordered magnetic name badges with the new logo for all Task Force members. "What's Your Plan?" will also be on the badges that will be ordered.

Barbara Bessette commented that she is pushing hard for the substance use surveys for 18-24 year olds and asked that Task Force members get the word out. They have 250 completed. The original goal was 1,000, but now they would like to get at least 500. Barbara Bessette reminded the DUI Task Force that recovery month is in September. She will e-mail out any events related to this. Ms. Bessette thanked Task Force members for supporting these events and meetings.

JT Lute thanked Task Force members for their card and kind thoughts after his father's passing.

Lisa Meyers advised that a group photo will be taken in September for the website.

Jim Larson stated that the County Commission has set the budgets for the year and will be announced September 2nd. Tomorrow afternoon at 4:00, 5:00, and 6:00 p.m. there will be an open house at the

County Commission chambers in the courthouse annex where the financial officer will be giving a power point on how the taxes were set.

10. Public Comment

John Hayes commented that the public service commission is allowing the Uber type of cab companies to come into Montana and become licensed. He is excited about it and stated that it could become interesting for our transportation needs for those who have been drinking. Mr. Hayes voiced concern that the sting operations being used in the taverns and grocery stores to try to get them to sell to a minor do not serve their purpose. He believes the consequence for a minor purchasing alcohol is a slap on the wrist and does not remain on their record. In Alaska they have an automatic \$1,000 fine to the juvenile and their family for attempting to buy alcohol. He would like to push for that type of law at Montana's next legislative session. Danielle Funseth noticed a sign at a bar/restaurant from the Department of Revenue warning that individuals under age 21 are subject to penalties and consequences for misrepresenting their age. She commented that the laws are in place but minors are not getting the full sentence when they go to court. She has found from the MIP report she sends to the courts and judges that they get assigned community service. However, they don't do it and there is no follow up.

Adjourn

At 4:20 p.m. Jim Whitaker motioned and Jim Larson seconded to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, the motion carried.

The next meeting will be September 29, 2015, at 3:30 p.m. at the Great Falls Pre-Release.

Citizen Member Expiration Dates: Corin Fisch – June 30, 2016
Mark Hewitt – June 30, 2017
Jim Whitaker – June 30, 2017

Letters to the Editor: August – Corin Fisch
September – Barbara Bessette
October – Lisa Meyers
November – Travis Grove
December – SSGT Mark Brandly

Minutes approved by: _____
Barbara Bessette, President

Date: _____